

**Joint Declaration of Intent
regarding the
Cooperation in the Field of Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable
Development
between
the Ministry of Ecology and Environment
of the People’s Republic of China
and
the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear
Safety and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany**

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China (MEE) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMUV) (hereinafter referred to as “the sides”) welcome the progress achieved in the last 16 years within the framework of the Sino-German Environmental Partnership. The sides are convinced that this long-standing and close cooperation has significantly contributed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15).

At the same time, the sides note with grave concern that the measures taken so far by the international community do not suffice to halt deforestation, biodiversity loss, land degradation as well as air and water pollution. Instead, the global scientific community has made it very clear that human activity is already significantly changing our global climate, nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, and pollution levels are globally on the rise, cutting short the lives of millions of people every year. The sides are convinced that these deeply worrying developments urgently require a decisive response, including increased bilateral and multilateral cooperation. They also concur that the Earth’s environmental emergencies and human well-being need to be addressed together.

In light of recent developments in international environmental policy as well as changes in the responsibilities within the German Government, the sides welcome the further deepening of the Environmental Dialogue and – on the aspects of Nature-based Solutions and increasing sustainability including through resource efficiency and circular economy – the Climate

Dialogue within the framework of their bilateral cooperation. Furthermore, they have the firm intention to work together with all stakeholders and partners to overcome climate and environmental challenges and step up their cooperation, both in multilateral fora and bilaterally.

Hence, they make the following Declaration of Intent:

1. The sides reaffirm their commitment already made through the Paris Agreement to fully implement it and its long-term goals to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
2. They recognise the role of land and oceans as natural carbon sinks and ecosystems, and that, conversely, loss of nature as well as rising temperatures can transform them into carbon sources and contribute to biodiversity loss. Both sides recognise that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can contribute to climate action and biodiversity conservation, and – based on the UNEA-5 resolution 5/5 “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development” – intend to scale up the implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) with high social and environmental standards to make use of the potential of nature to tackle the biodiversity and climate crises simultaneously. Furthermore, the sides wish to continue the exchange on NbS in the international community and share experiences on the integration of NbS in their policies.
3. Furthermore, the sides emphasize the importance of mitigating non-CO₂ greenhouse gases such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) for the achievement of the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement. In this context, they recognise the importance of the implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which alone could prevent up to 0.4°C of global warming by the end of the century. The sides reaffirm their fruitful cooperation on the phase-down of HFCs production and consumption.
4. The sides reaffirm their determination to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted at COP15 of the CBD in Montreal. The sides will submit a revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan by CBD COP16. They welcome the recent agreement reached in negotiations on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).
5. The sides recall the necessity to protect our oceans from further pollution, inter alia from plastic waste. The sides therefore confirm their willingness to jointly work

against marine litter as intended by the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter. Furthermore, the sides intend to work jointly on the development of new global commitments on this global challenge in the context of resolution 5/14 “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument” adopted at UNEA-5 in February 2022.

6. Also in light of the outcomes of the Global Chemicals Outlook II, the sides reaffirm the need to establish a sound global system for chemicals and waste management and intend to work jointly towards the adoption of an ambitious and practical framework to succeed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) after 2020. Furthermore, the sides intend to work jointly on the successful implementation of resolution 5/8 “Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution” adopted at UNEA-5 in February 2022. For better implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the sides intend to cooperate and strengthen their technical exchange on the replacement technology for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other new listed persistent organic pollutants and on remediation technology for contaminated sites.
7. The sides reaffirm their commitment to the highest level of nuclear safety, continuous improvement and competent nuclear regulatory bodies.

With a view to their further bilateral cooperation, the sides have come to the following understanding:

1. The sides underline the value of the Sino-German Environment Forum, the Sino-German Environmental Partnership as well as the Sino-German Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, which are perceived as crucial instruments for intensifying the cooperation and exchange of experience between both countries.
2. The sides welcome the creation of the Sino-German Track 2 Dialogue on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (hereinafter referred to as “Track 2 Dialogue”) as an important complement to the existing direct dialogues between BMUV and MEE and reemphasize their willingness to further deepen the cooperation in this forum and to support the work of the Track 2 Dialogue wherever possible.
3. The sides acknowledge the function of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) as an outstanding forum for international exchange and cooperation. The sides thus intend to further deepen

their cooperation within CCICED with the aim to promote China's sustainable development.

4. Furthermore, the sides intend to continue and strengthen their bilateral cooperation and exchange, in particular in the following thematic areas:
 - a. Nature-based Solutions
 - b. Green finance
 - c. Nuclear safety
 - d. Mitigation of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases, particularly HFCs
 - e. Biodiversity and ecosystems protection for the implementation of the GBF
 - f. Ecosystem restoration under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030
 - g. Marine and freshwater ecology and environmental protection
 - h. Air, water and soil pollution prevention, inter alia from plastics
 - i. Solid waste management
 - j. Eco-labeling
 - k. Chemical environmental management: exchange on regulations on chemical environmental management and techniques on environmental risk assessment and control of chemical substances

This document is a Declaration of Intent. As such, it neither obliges the sides to provide funds, personnel, services or other resources, nor does it create legally binding entitlements or obligations under international or national law. This Joint Declaration of Intent may be revised at any time with the written consent of the sides.

Signed in Berlin on 19 June 2023 in duplicate in the Chinese, German, and English languages. In case of divergence, the English text should prevail.

For the Ministry of Ecology and
Environment of the
People's Republic of China

For the Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
of the Federal Republic of Germany